

Appln No. 10/758,558  
Amendment in Reply to the Final Office action dated July 19, 2005

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

#### Listing of claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently amended): Apparatus for treatment of a vertically extending target surface by spray-on of a liquid coating thereof applied from an ejection device, comprising: guidance means exclusively supported on the vertically extending target surface for establishing vertical linear paths of movement in horizontally spaced relation thereto; support means on which the ejection device is positioned for ejection said spray-on of the liquid coating onto the vertically extending target surface in a direction perpendicular thereto therefrom; and selectively controlled mounting means for positioning of the support means at different locations along said linear paths of movement on the guidance means from which said spray-on ejection of the liquid coating onto the target surface is effected from the ejection device horizontally spaced at different distances from the target surface to perform said treatment of the target surface.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said vertically extending target surface is a ship hull and said ejection device is a liquid paint applicator from which paint as the liquid coating is applied to the vertically extending target surface.

Claim 3 (Original): The apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein said guidance means includes: horizontal track rails on the target surface; and vertical guide means slidably received in the track rails for displacement of the support means along said linear paths of movement to the different locations.

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Claim 4 (Original): The apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein said support means includes:  
a support rack mounted by the vertical guide means in perpendicular relation to the target surface.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as defined in claim + 2, wherein said  
treatment of the target surface involves ~~decoding~~ de-coating thereof by removal of the paint  
therefrom.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A method for treatment of a target surface under selective control of  
an ejection device, including the steps of: establishing linear guide paths along which movement  
of the ejection device is guided to positions in spaced relation to the target surface; and imparting  
vertical and horizontal movement to the ejection device in each of said positions from which said  
treatment is applied to the target surface.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The method as defined in claim 6, wherein said treatment involves  
application of a uniform coating of paint to the target surface by efficient transfer from the  
ejection device.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The method as defined in claim 6, wherein said treatment of the  
target surface involves removal of paint therefrom.